



# Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

April 2007

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

**P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218.** (804) 698-4055 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

**Please note our new P.O. Box and Zip Code.**

*Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Sheila Barnett at [smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov).*

## Federal Learn-and-Serve Grants

Students from 65 Virginia schools will benefit from the Learn and Serve Grants awarded by the Virginia Department of Education this spring. The Learn-and-Serve America program engages students in community service projects and teaches them to demonstrate good stewardship.

Most of the Virginia schools that will be receiving this award have identified monitoring water quality in their local watersheds as part of their program.

Water quality can be affected by what people purposefully dump into the watersheds and litter that washes down storm drains or off of the ground and into the water.

People dump many types of trash into local waterways some of which is discovered and removed during cleanup events. During cleanup events, finding car parts, refrigerators, cans of paint and other types of contaminants is common. In addition, oil, gas, and rust from old cars add to the contamination problem. Discarded refrigerators can also release freon into the watershed, so monitoring water quality is important for teaching students the impact that humans have on the environment.

For more information, contact Marilyn Elder, with the Virginia Department of Education at (804) 371-2430 or [marilyn.elder@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:marilyn.elder@doe.virginia.gov) or visit the following websites:

### Virginia Naturally

<http://www.vanaturally.com/grants.html>

### Learn & Serve America

[http://www.learnandserve.gov/about/role\\_impact/index.asp](http://www.learnandserve.gov/about/role_impact/index.asp)

### Virginia Department of Education – Press Release

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/NewHome/pressreleases/2007/mar20.html>

## Check out the EPA's Earth Day Page

Earth Day is officially Sunday, April 22, 2007.

Learn what people can do in their homes, schools, communities, schools and while shopping to help the Earth.

<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>

## Did You Know?

- ✓ Stewardship Virginia is April 1 – May 31, 2007. Complete a registration form to advertise your environmental events and give them additional exposure by going to <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship/index.htm>. Spring events will be posted by April 1, 2007. Contact Bonnie Phillips at 1-877-42-WATER or [bonnie.phillips@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:bonnie.phillips@dcr.virginia.gov)
- ✓ Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup runs from March 1 – May 31, 2007. If your organization would like to be listed on the KAB website as a participant, fax a letter to KAB to request an application. The fax number is (203) 325-9199. Or, you can email your request to [gac@kab.org](mailto:gac@kab.org)
- ✓ Virginia Spring Cleanup is April 14, 2007. Contact your local Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator by going to: <http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-aah-coords.asp>
- ✓ On May 1 and 2, the Virginia Recycling Association will hold its annual conference in Williamsburg, in partnership with the Virginia Council for Litter Prevention and the SWANA Old Dominion Chapter. The conference will be held at the Woodlands Hotel & Suites in Williamsburg. For more information about the litter programs contact Clara Mills at (540) 507-7709 or [cmills@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:cmills@spotsylvania.va.us) To register go to: <http://www.vrarecycles.org/>

## Waste in Place Workshop

Holly Carson of **Keep Norfolk Beautiful** conducted a Keep America Beautiful Waste in Place Workshop at Nauticus in Norfolk on March 15, 2007. The morning was dedicated to teaching recycling awareness, and the afternoon focused on litter.

Ms. Carson has a lot of ideas for litter managers who are planning to do litter (and recycling) awareness activities with groups. She is glad to share her wealth of knowledge and library of activities with others.

Contact Holly Carson at (757) 441-1347 or

[holly.carson@norfolk.gov](mailto:holly.carson@norfolk.gov)

## Litter Picks Continued

### Advertising our Success

Thank you to those of you who are sending me your newsletters and emails to let me know what is going on in your area so that events can be advertised in "Litter Picks."

Please share with me the following information about your events so that I can put the results in upcoming newsletters:

- ✓ Number of Cleanups held in your jurisdiction
- ✓ Approximate participation
- ✓ Tonnage collected (six 30 lb bags equals approximately one ton)
- ✓ Anything else you would like to share with other litter managers about your cleanups and Earth Day events.

Contact Sheila Barnett at (804) 698-4055 or

[smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov)

### Calendar of Events 2007

#### April

6 **Hampton** Tour de Trash, Sandy Bottom Nature Park, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Registration Required. Contact Debbie Blanton at (757) 727-6776 or [hccc@hampton.gov](mailto:hccc@hampton.gov)

21 **Richmond** City Earth Day Celebration, South End of the Mayo Bridge, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact Billie Raines at (804) 646-6785 or [braines@ci.richmond.va.us](mailto:braines@ci.richmond.va.us)

**Buckingham Anti-Litter Task Force (BALTF)** is sponsoring Earth Day at the Buckingham Food Lion Parking Lot. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Contact Helen Saxon, (434) 969-4242 or [ehsaxon@ceva.net](mailto:ehsaxon@ceva.net)

**Chesterfield County** Environmental Fair. Chesterfield Towne Center, 11500 Midlothian Turnpike 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Contact Pamela Cooper (804) 751-2227 or [cooperp@chesterfield.gov](mailto:cooperp@chesterfield.gov)

Earth Day at Claytor Lake State Park, **Pulaski**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information call (540) 643-2500 or email [claytorlake@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:claytorlake@dcr.virginia.gov)

Earth Day Celebration, Three Lakes Park **Henrico County**, 1 – 4 p.m. Contact Megan Brown at 804-501-4502, Ext. 4 or [bro77@co.henrico.va.us](mailto:bro77@co.henrico.va.us)

**Keep Loudoun Beautiful** canoe cleanup, Goose Creek 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Go to <http://www.keeploudounbeautiful.org/KLBcanoe.html> for more information.

Earth Day, **Charlottesville**, Meade Park, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information go to [www.earthweek.org/ecofair.asp](http://www.earthweek.org/ecofair.asp)

28 **Clean Fairfax Council** Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration, Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact Rosemary Byrne at (703) 324-5471 or [rcbyrne@aol.com](mailto:rcbyrne@aol.com)

### Meth Lab Litter – A Special Concern

With many cleanups scheduled for April, some volunteers may find the remnants of methamphetamine (or "meth" for short) labs in their cleanup sites. The discarded items can be dangerous and may give off fumes that smell like ammonia and can burn the lungs. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) which sponsors the Adopt-a-Highway program recommends that if volunteers suspect that they have come across a meth lab litter site, that they tie an orange trash bag to a post or tree near the site, stop the pickup, leave the area, and call the state police or sheriff's office.

Some common meth lab wastes include:

- ✓ Compressed gas cylinders or camp stove (Coleman) fuel containers or propane tanks
- ✓ Packaging from Epsom salt, rock salt, iodized salt or table salt
- ✓ Pyrex/glass/Corning containers with dried chemical deposits remaining
- ✓ Respiratory masks and filters or dust masks
- ✓ Funnels, hosing and clamps
- ✓ Cold/allergy medicine packaging
- ✓ Coffee filters with white or red pasty or powdery substance
- ✓ Coolers, thermos bottles or other cold storage containers

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality has a brochure on the internet with pictures of meth waste. Go to: <http://extension.unl.edu/Meth/index.html>

The Colorado Department of Transportation has a free Meth Lab Waste Recognition video on the internet that shows meth waste and what to do if it is found alongside the road. Go to: <http://www.dot.state.co.us/AdoptAHighway/>

### It's Not Easy Getting into the Schools

The newest heroine in the fight against litter is Chesterfield's own, Miss Clara-Belle Cleanup (a.k.a. Pamela Cooper, Chesterfield's Litter Program Manager). This southern belle has been mistaken by some children to be a princess as she daintily fans herself with a fan shaped like a pineapple. She's hot about litter! She will gladly give you a fan as she invites you to join the Chesterfield anti-litter team.

To get into the schools to share litter awareness with students and teachers, Ms. Cooper has incorporated her message into several curriculum areas. She teaches Chesterfield history while dressed as an antebellum lady. The fans are shaped like pineapples because historically, the pineapple is a symbol of welcome in Virginia. The fans have a picture of a blue heron and a wetland on them with the anti-litter information on the handles and in the picture.

To learn more about Chesterfield's anti-litter program, contact Pamela Cooper at (804) 751-2227 or [cooperp@chesterfield.gov](mailto:cooperp@chesterfield.gov)

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